

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07
ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 USIE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /100 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/USOAS:MDION:AB

APPROVED BY ARA/USOAS:AMB. MCGEE

ARA/AND:MBARNEBEY

ARA/ECP:SROGERS (INFO)

-----130778 160117Z /72

O 160105Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 067251

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OAS, BL

SUBJECT:BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR DENOUNCES TIN DISPOSAL PROGRAM

1. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ SANZ OF BOLIVIA MADE AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH AT THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL MARCH 15 COMPLAINING OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT THE U.S. TIN SALE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE ON BOLIVIA'S ECONOMY. HE ARGUED THAT TIN DISPOSALS WERE CERTAIN TO CAUSE A PRICE DROP, THAT 50 CENTS LESS PER TON WOULD COST BOLIVIA 33 MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE FOR IT IS NOT JUST TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENTS THAT ABUSE HUMAN RIGHTS BUT ALSO ACTIONS THAT DEPRIVE PEOPLES OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD. THE TIN SALES PROGRAM, HE CHARGED, WOULD LITERALLY TAKE BREAD FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE BOLIVIAN POOR.

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2. AMBASSADOR MCGEE STATED FOR THE RECORD THAT THE U.S. WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT BANZER AND WOULD CONSULT ON THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF SUCH SALES TO ENSURE THE MINIMAL IMPACT ON THE TIN PRICE AND THE LEAST DAMAGE TO THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY. MOST OAS DELEGATIONS STRONGLY ENDORSED BOLIVIA'S APPEAL BUT A DISAGREEMENT SOON ENSUED BETWEEN

DELEGATIONS WHO MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ECONOMIC RIGHTS
AND RIGHTS OF THE PERSONS AGAINST PHYSICAL ABUSE.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE TIN QUESTION WENT ON FOR HALF AN HOUR
AND ENDED WITH THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSION OF GRAT-
ITUDE FOR THE COUNCIL'S SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE. HE THANKED
THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN PARTICULAR FOR SUGGESTING THAT
A RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE BE DRAWN UP IF CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE U.S. PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. ORTIZ
SANZ PROMISED TO RETURN TO THE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER SUPPORT
IF NEEDED. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION THE DOMINICAN
AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT TIN BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA OF
THE APRIL CECON MEETING IN HIS CAPITAL AND THAT HIGH LEVEL
DELEGATIONS BE SENT TO CONSULT ON A BROAD RANGE OF
COMMODITIES AND MANUFACTURES. VANCE

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